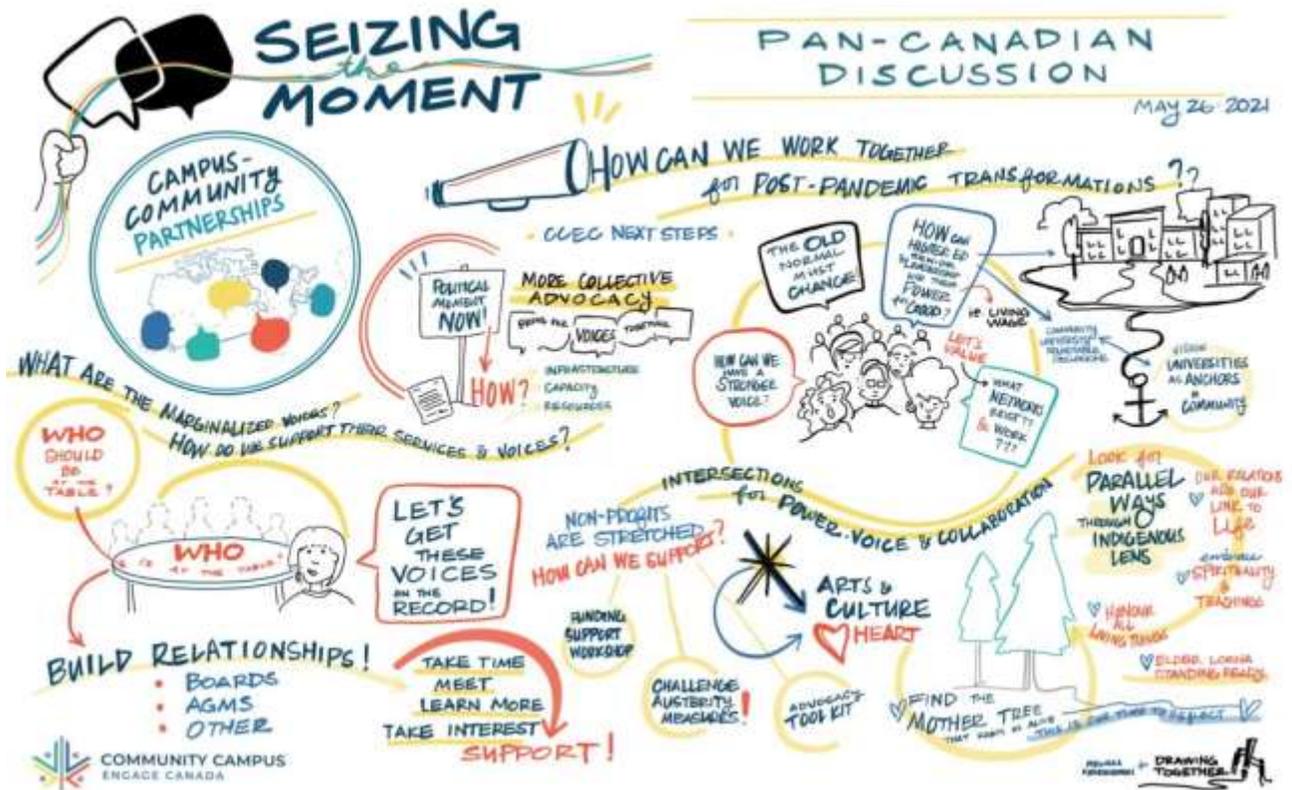


Community Engagement and Research Centre



Graphic Recorder: Melissa Kendzierski

Annual Report 2020-2021



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Community Engagement and Research Centre,

This past year was my first in the role of Academic Director for the Community Engagement and Research Centre (CERC). I am very proud of what we achieved this year, despite the challenges of the global pandemic. As our world moved even further online, so did the work of the CERC. For example, the Centre delivered 13 virtual skill-building workshops for our community and academic partners. The workshops were met with unprecedented attendance levels and, thanks to virtual delivery, they attracted participants from across the province. The videos are now available on YouTube, where they continue to reach new audiences.



We are, however, looking forward to connecting again—in person—with our colleagues from the university and the broader community. In the pages of this report, you will learn more about the fantastic projects CERC was honoured to support with funding this past year. Our colleagues in community organizations and non-profits are doing important research to address pressing social challenges, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. We are pleased to support the individuals and groups who are driving such positive change.

The CERC has also experienced some changes this year. When I joined the CERC leadership in the summer of 2020, one of the action items in my vision statement was to help bring more community-engaged learning (CEL) opportunities into the classroom, making these opportunities more accessible to all students. I also wanted to see CERC expand its role to become a source of up-to-date, reliable research on our main area of expertise: community engagement. With this goal in mind, we at CERC collaborated with Community Campus Engage Canada to develop two funded research projects.

These projects have drawn together students, educators, and administrators from across Canada to examine important questions, like: how do we make CEL more inclusive and equitable for all students? What strategies can professors use to bring CEL into the classroom? And, what is the role of community-campus engagement in the post-pandemic period—not simply for “recovery”, but for transformation? I would like to sincerely thank the 21 professors and instructors from across our campus who stepped up to participate in an interview for the CEL project. Thank you for sharing your experiences, your pedagogy, and your ideas for next steps in CEL at the University of Regina. You can read more about both projects on page 11.

I would also like to thank the wonderful students who participated in a CEL class or Arts Work Experience Internship (or both!) with the CERC this past year. I hope your experiences were everything you’d hoped they would be, and I wish you all the very best in your next steps.

Finally, many thanks to our outgoing board members for their guidance and support, and a warm welcome to our new board members. I am wishing you all a happy academic year full of community and connection.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amber Fletcher, CERC Academic Director and Board Chair
Associate Professor, Sociology and Social Studies



From the Community Director's Desk

This year as we were doing the final edits of this report, I got a little sentimental. While looking back at my time at the university, I reflected on the fact that I almost never applied for the job and how grateful I am to a couple of faculty members that I met during my PhD journey who encouraged me to put my name forward. They were way more convinced than I was that a job promoting and facilitating community-driven research and connecting people from the community with faculty, staff and students at the university, might be a good path for me.

Fast forward four years and I'm still here. The temporary, one-year position turned into a permanent job. No day is the same but one thing is constant. Through my job I have the privilege to work with people (on and off campus) who are motivated to put their time, talents, and ideas to good use by advocating for positive social change in the communities they live in or identify with. It gives me pleasure to introduce people to each other and help build teams—watching relationships deepen as complex challenges are tackled and friendships based on mutual respect and shared understanding are developed or strengthened.

We are proud to have become the de facto “help desk” or portal for individuals in the community and at the university looking to do partnership work. One of our goals is to break down silos between faculties and departments. We know that there are pockets of people in all areas of our university doing great work with community and many more looking for ways to connect with others doing this type of work. If you haven't already reached out to us, please do!

One of the highlights of the past year for me was the opportunity to do research with CERC's new Academic Director and Board Chair, Amber Fletcher, and Community Campus Engage Canada's (CCEC) manager, Magda Goemans. I am proud to serve on the management committee for this national network and knowledge-sharing organization. Through our research with CCEC, we aim to create spaces for connection, for conversation, for capacity-building and for collective action – for people in community-campus research and learning partnerships across Canada.

Despite the bleak period we are currently living through, I look to the future with optimism, ever thankful for the wise counsel and unwavering support of our community-university board, led by the incomparable Amber Fletcher, who despite her incredibly busy schedule, always brings so much enthusiasm, professionalism and vision to the service she offers to CERC. Finally, thank you to decision makers in the Faculty of Arts for recognizing the value of funding community engagement initiatives. I hope through our efforts CERC is making the Faculty of Arts proud and showing the community that the University of Regina is sincere in wanting to collaborate in meaningful ways to address some of society's most daunting challenges.

Dr. Lynn Gidluck
CERC Community Director

CERC's Mandate

The Community Engagement and Research Centre (CERC), formerly known as the Community Research Unit, is a Type II Research Centre funded by the University of Regina's Faculty of Arts. There are three strategic foci for the work of CERC: 1) Supporting rigorous community-engaged research that contributes to the wellbeing of communities; 2) Building capacity in our community; and 3) Facilitating and promoting experiential learning and engagement opportunities for students with community-based organizations.



2020-21 8 TOOLKIT WORKSHOPS & 10 ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



ART INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

2020-21 14 students completed internships

SINCE LAUNCH IN WINTER 2019 36 students completed internships by Aug 2020

Community-Based Research and Knowledge Mobilization Grants

Community-based research is a model of engaged scholarship in which faculty, students, and community members work together on research to address pressing societal questions. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Faculty of Arts, which pays the salary of the Community Director and provides \$24,000 in annual funding for community-driven research. This allows CERC to work with the community to demystify the research process and build bridges to the university by making connections with faculty and students who have a passion to make a difference with their research.

CERC funding is awarded to community-based organizations – not university partners. This sets us apart from most university-funded research centres. An important factor in the creation of this fund was to shift power and resources to our community partners, which is an essential goal and value of community-based research. While community organizations may occasionally find some support by participating in academic-led research projects, there are few sources they can turn to in order to lead their own research or help their communities share and act on the findings once their research project is wrapped up.

Though funds are awarded to community organizations rather than to faculty, staff or students working at the university, CERC is there for you. Students – if you are searching for an idea for your thesis or dissertation so that your research has impact in the community, arrange for a consultation. We can also let you know about part-time research opportunities. Faculty members—we are happy to introduce you to community partners that may have interest in working with you or learning about your research. For more information about how to apply for funding, [check out our pages](#) on the University of Regina’s website. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, CERC funded seven projects. This section summarizes each of these important projects.

Renewing Regina’s Theatre Community

Since early 2019, a large number of professional and avocational artists and cultural workers in Regina have organized themselves with the intention of renewing the local theatre community. They have collaborated to take stock of the current state of theatre in the city and determined several factors that present obstacles for a thriving theatre community and the capacity of emerging and more seasoned professionals to create and make live performance available to the public. This project will build on a needs assessment and research into a very successful “shared platform” that has energized the theatre and performance community in Saskatoon. Research will be undertaken into other existing models for “shared platforms” both in terms of their legal and organizational makeup and in terms of the array of services and supports they offer to their community.

The partners for this project (Mark Claxton, Saskatchewan Association of Theatre Professionals; and Emerita professors of MAP, Kathleen Irwin and Mary Blackstone) hope to invigorate a flagging theatre ecology in Regina by developing a “shared platform” and a new professional community theatre space.

Existing and Exacerbated Educational Inequities for Newcomer Students in COVID-19: School Settlement Workers Respond

The purpose of this project is to spotlight the work of settlement workers in schools, an under-researched group of professionals who have been paid little attention by the broader community for the crucial role they play in supporting newcomer students to integrate into the Canadian school system. The goal of this project is to collaboratively produce a set of recommendations in the form of a research report that will directly benefit our organization, now and beyond the pandemic.

With the recommendations from the report and the study findings, the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agency (SAISIA) hopes to strengthen its ability to respond to school settlement workers' emerging challenges brought on by the pandemic, and to build staff capacity and support in managing shifting educational contexts and in alleviating the impacts of the pandemic on newcomer youth and their families, moving forward.

Partners for this project were Maryam Karimi, Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies; Amanda Gebhard, Fritz Pino and Willow Allen (Faculty of Social Work).

Exploring the Impact of Physical Rehabilitation and Recreational Walking among People in Late Stages of Recovery from Acquired Brain Injury

People with acquired brain injury who have been discharged from post-acute rehabilitation will concurrently participate in physical rehabilitation offered at the University of Regina and an outdoor recreational walking program offered by the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA). The walking program will be designed to support psychosocial aspects of rehabilitation. Together, the programs will meet the requests of many SBIA members to participate in activities similar to what they experienced in their rehabilitation acutely post injury. A researcher will be “embedded” into delivery of the physical rehabilitation and walking programs. This embedded researcher will conduct “go-along interviews” with research participants to explore the impact of the programming components (i.e., physical rehabilitation, recreational walking) on sense of overall wellbeing (i.e., psychological, social, spiritual) and quality of life.

A guidebook will be written to help implement similar sustainable, low-cost physical rehabilitation and recreation programs in Regina and other communities. The guidebook will be informed by documentation of participants' experiences with the programming, including both strengths and weaknesses of the approach taken. The guidebook describing the delivery of the programs and the experiences of participants will be made available online. Research findings will also be summarized in a report provided by the researchers to the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA) which they will use in their advocacy and membership communications efforts. Partners for this project are Glenda James, Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association; and Cameron Mang, Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina.

Building a Saskatchewan Accessibility Act: Nothing About Us Without Us

The Government of Saskatchewan is in the process of developing Provincial Accessibility legislation. The research team, led by a number of people from Barrier Free Saskatchewan including Robin East and Chelsea Wisser, are working with Kinesiology and Health Studies professor Brenda Rossow-Kimball and Sociology student Nick Antonini to do an inter-jurisdictional comparison of Accessibility Acts across Canada, identifying successes, gaps, and best practices in order to provide feedback and recommendations to the provincial government.

The team hopes to inform policy and ensure that the upcoming Saskatchewan Accessibilities Act meets the needs of people with disabilities in our province.

By Right Not Privilege: Evaluative Research on Saskatchewan's Free Gladue Writing Project Research

The Gladue Principle is a sentencing principle that asks the courts to look at the over-representation of Indigenous peoples and consider alternatives to jail or remand. In Saskatchewan we have some of the lowest rates of Gladue submissions - cited as a resource issue (no one will pay for them and they take too long to draft). The FASD Network of SK writes Gladue Reports at no cost for their clients which saves upwards of \$6,000 per report. This research project will evaluate the efficiency of using a team-based approach in drafting Gladue reports. Critical feedback would be received through stakeholders in the Canadian justice system, including judges and lawyers, our clients, the agencies we collaborate with, as well as FASD Network staff.

Project partners for this research are Andrea Kotlar-Livingston, Executive Director, FASD Network of Saskatchewan; Bev Poitras, Director of Restorative Justice, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council; and Michelle Stewart, Gender, Religion, and Critical Studies, Faculty of Arts. The long-term goal with this research is to expand the application of Gladue submissions in Saskatchewan. Evaluating the project will also allow the FASD Network to adjust the project and enhance services offered to clients.

Digital Professional Development Resources for Regina Based Organizations Serving the Community

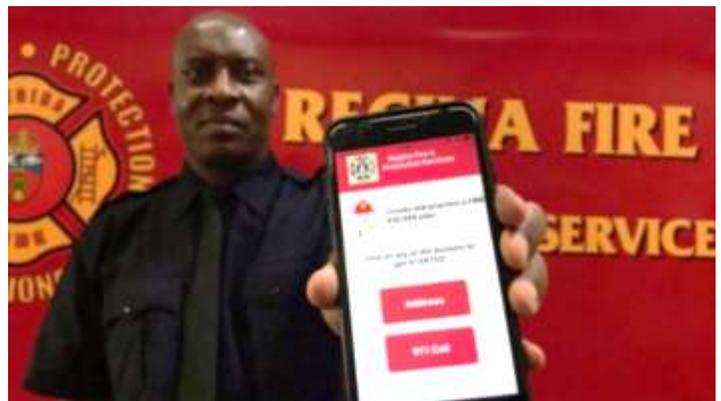
Groups in the non-profit sector often find it difficult to allocate funds for staff development and training. In some organizations, many in leadership positions are simply unaware of free or low-cost resources available to them, such as workshops and training programs. Others do not have access to published research materials to support their staff. The Regina Public Library is creating a digital resource that will host local relevant materials with easy access for organizations in one place. There is a need in our community to gather and provide locally relevant material in a one-stop online spot including professionally developed content that speaks to different kinds of social services work and clientele needs. Sarah James, leading the project for the Regina Public Library, will receive advice and guidance from members of the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation's Vital Signs Network and the Community Engagement and Research Centre Community Advisory Committee.

Understanding the Needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) residents of Regina’s Heritage Neighbourhood

Aria Ramdeo, Executive Director of the Heritage Community Association, is working with Fritz Pino (Faculty of Social Work) to explore the key needs and challenges of BIPOC residents living in the Heritage area. This is an exploratory study that will inform a larger study on understanding the lived experiences of BIPOC residents in the community. A report will be produced that documents the experiences of BIPOC people living in Regina’s Heritage neighbourhood and includes recommendations for further research and action by HCA and other agencies.

Software Engineering students create new safety app for Regina Fire and Protective Service

Pictured here is Regina Fire & Protective Services Public Education Officer Loly Shalishali holding his phone with the App designed by Tim Maciag’s fourth year “User Interface Programming (People-Centred Design)” students. RFPS staff reached out to CERC because they were in serious need of a technology upgrade to make more relevant the public education work they were doing with the City’s 75+ elementary schools. RFPS was using landline telephones to teach children how to call 911. They were spending more time explaining what the telephone was rather than how to make a life-saving call. During Winter 2020, Maciag’s students met with RFPS staff to brainstorm and develop application possibilities.



Maciag’s students produced designs beyond what he and the RFPS expected, but there is only so much you can accomplish during a 13-week semester. In order to take the project to the next step, RFPS applied for one of CERC’s community-based research grants in order to hire a student from the class to complete the project.

With the grant, fourth-year student Jack Zhao was hired to work with City of Regina Information Technology and Communications staff to take the best ideas that came from the class and develop a working application (available free in Apple Store and Google Play). The City of Regina team guided Jack through coding ideas, audience test trials, and corporate branding. By January of 2021, RFPS had a working application that helps teachers, firefighters, and guardians creatively teach children how to call 911 and provide home address information.

Community-Based Research & Knowledge Mobilization Grants

2020-21

Project Title	Main Community Partner(s)	Amount Awarded	Funding period
Renewing Regina's Theatre Community	Saskatchewan Association of Theatre Professionals	\$2,500.00	Nov. 2020
Existing and Exacerbated Educational Inequities for Newcomer Students in COVID-19: School Settlement Workers Respond	Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies	\$4,000.00	Nov. 2020
Exploring the Impact of Physical Rehabilitation and Recreational Walking Among People in Late Stages of Recovery from Acquired Brain Injury	Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association	\$2,500.00	Nov. 2020
Building a Saskatchewan Accessibility Act: "Nothing About Us Without Us."	Barrier Free Saskatchewan	\$4,000.00	April 2021
Understanding the Needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) residents of Regina's Heritage Neighbourhood	Heritage Community Association	\$4,000.00	April 2021
Digital Professional Development Resources for Regina-based Organizations Serving the Community	Regina Public Library	\$3,000.00	April 2021
By Right Not Privilege: Evaluative Research on Saskatchewan's Free Gladue Writing Project Research	FASD Network of Saskatchewan	\$4,000.00	April 2021

Deadlines for grant applications are November 1st and April 1st. Please note that *funding is awarded to community partners*, not faculty members. Organizations applying for a grant *do not* have to be registered charities or nonprofit agencies to apply. However, if the application is from a network or umbrella organization that does not have a bank account, a member organization must agree to hold the funds. We encourage anyone considering applying for a grant to reach out well in advance of the deadline so that we can provide advice on how to make your application more competitive. Schedule a meeting with Lynn Gidluck by emailing lynn.gidluck@uregina.ca.

Arts Internship Program

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic, the Arts Internship Program had another successful year in 2020-21. Fourteen senior undergraduate Arts students completed internships with a variety of community-based organizations.

The process starts with a meeting between the student and CERC Community Director Lynn Gidluck. The goal with the program is to learn the career aspirations of the student and place them with an organization they are excited about working for.

Arts interns this year worked for a variety of organizations including the Canadian Mental Association; Catholic Family Services; EnviroCollective; John Howard Society; Regina Lakeview Member of the Legislature - Carla Beck; Regina Antipoverty Ministry; The Regina Intersectoral Partnership; Regina Immigrant Women's Centre; Regina Open Door Society; Royal Saskatchewan Museum; Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation; Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan; and SOFIA House.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics student Bree Crookshanks is considering a career in the nonprofit sector after her internship with Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan. "I was surprised with how much of a connection there was between my education and the internship. Much of my degree is focused on research and writing, therefore I was able to use these skills and build upon them further," said Bree. "I would recommend the Arts Internship program to anyone who wants to see how their skills

learned in school can be applied to the professional world."

Sociology student Chantelle La Rocque did her internship with The Regina Intersectoral Partnership, a preventative measures program to assist youth displaying at-risk behavior and experiencing barriers to services. "I have become more aware of my privilege as a white middle-class student who has been afforded the opportunity to get an education. My time with TRiP made me see my privilege in a new light and what I can do to work against the injustice, oppression, and discrimination that is experienced by those who are less privileged than I am."

International Studies student Fahim Imran did a placement with Catholic Family Services that he says helped clarify his career direction and educational plans. "This is the first time I got professional work experience from a government-funded social services organization," he said.

Environmental Studies student Savannah Clements worked with EnviroCollective. "This internship was the perfect bridge between my degree so far and real-life implications of my studies. I have studied the implications of climate action in cities, and the importance of recycling and composting, and how important community engagement and participation is for climate action to be implemented into our daily lives. These are all concepts I have experienced during my time with EnviroCollective."

Community-Engaged Learning and Community-Campus Engagement Projects



Over the past year, the CERC has partnered with Community Campus Engage Canada (CCEC) on two projects about community-engaged learning (CEL) and connecting campus with community. Through these projects and others for which we have received external funding, the CERC is taking a leadership role in regional and national organizations focused on supporting and enhancing campus community engagement and community-based research. We are proud to be leading critical discussions and sharing knowledge resulting from our research and engagement efforts.

The first project, entitled “Seizing the Moment: Exploring Just and Sustainable Pandemic Recovery through Community-Campus Partnerships” began with a two-day virtual conference on May 25-26. The conference featured keynote speakers and a series of regional presentations to discuss the role of community-campus engagement in post-pandemic transformation and social change. This project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Work continues on this project in the 2021-22 academic year, with a series of online community discussion sessions culminating in a pan-Canadian funding proposal to activate ideas from the project.

The second project examines current challenges and opportunities in CEL across the country. During the Winter 2021

semester, 21 professors and instructors from the U of R participated in interviews with students from Amber Fletcher’s Social Studies 307 (Applied Methods: Qualitative Approaches) course. The professors shared their experiences about doing CEL in the classroom and identified some next steps to facilitate future CEL opportunities at U of R. Students in Fletcher’s Social Studies 203 (Introduction to Social Research Methods) class designed a survey that is being administered to U of R undergraduate students who have participated in course-based service-learning. Four students who were in Fletcher’s classes were recruited to continue working on the project during the spring/summer semester through Arts Internships. Another Arts Intern is helping the team wrap up the report in the Fall 2021 semester.

Another critical component to this project is data collection of CEL practices at post-secondary institutions across Canada. The research team has conducted an extensive literature review and scan of contemporary CEL issues and programs, as well as in-depth interviews and group discussions with staff and administrators at post-secondary community-engagement offices, faculty, and community-based organization representatives involved in CEL activities across Canada. We look forward to releasing a report in early 2022 that the University of Regina can use to develop a campus-wide program to incorporate CEL into undergraduate courses.

Community-Directed Professional Development Workshops

Hundreds of staff and volunteers of small to medium-sized non-profit organizations in Regina and surrounding communities continue to rely on the CERC's Toolkit Workshops to learn new skills. In response to the world-wide pandemic, these popular workshops and other training and engagement efforts had to be quickly re-envisioned for the online world. During the 2020-21 academic year six Toolkit sessions were offered. Two themes were chosen, with a series of complementary but stand-alone workshops offered as ninety-minute sessions on Zoom.

The CERC would like to thank the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation for its generous sponsorship of our Toolkit Workshops. This sponsorship allows us to pay community facilitators honorariums for their time and to not charge participants to attend these popular training sessions.

Many thanks to Community Advisory Committee members Alaina Harrison (Inclusion Saskatchewan), Dana Folkersen (REACH), Karen Jaster-Laforge (JSGS), Tracy Knutson (STOPS to Violence) and Karen Henders (South Saskatchewan Community Foundation). Their insight into community needs helps us ensure that the sessions we offer are relevant to people

working in the nonprofit sector. We would also like to thank Bruce Anderson, Hill School of Business, for always being so quick to provide "leads" on great community facilitators. He introduced us to Dave Roszell (CAA Saskatchewan), who agreed to facilitate one of the most popular series of workshops we offered last year – "Taking the Fear out of Nonprofit Finance and Risk Management."

"The Toolkit workshops offered by the Community Engagement and Research Centre are a highly valued resource in the Regina community that fills a gap by facilitating affordable, accessible development opportunities for the community-based sector," says Tracy Knutson, Executive Director of STOPS to Violence.

In addition to the Toolkit series, CERC collaborated with a number of other local and national organizations to offer online networking and professional development opportunities. Organizations we partnered with included the City of Regina, the Canadian Philanthropy Partnership Network, the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment, Research Impact Canada, and Community Campus Engage Canada.

Workshops offered in 2020-21

<i>Toolkit Workshop Series Equity, Diversity and Inclusion</i>	Pauline Streete and Taiwo Afolabi	Nov. 2020 to Jan. 2021	This series of webinars provided community the opportunity to explore in a safe space the topic of equity, diversity, and inclusion in a safe space.
Webinar 1	Pauline Streete and Taiwo Afolabi	Nov. 17, 2020	Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Essentials: Where Do We Start? An Exploration of Key Concepts, Principles and First Steps
Webinar 2	Pauline Streete and Taiwo Afolabi	Dec. 9, 2020	Diving Deeper: Developing and Integrating Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into Board/Organizational Policies
Webinar 3	Pauline Streete	Jan. 28, 2021	Tools and Guiding Principles for Board Diversity and Inclusivity
<i>City of Regina Impact through Collaboration Series</i>	Tracy Sanden, Julia Siemer, Ann Perry, Laurie Clune, Jacq Brasseur, Claire Carter, Michelle Stewart and Andrea Kotlar Livingston	Sept. 28, 2020	Non-profit Agencies and the University Researcher: Discussing Mutual Benefits
	Elizabeth Cooper	Oct. 26, 2020	Do's and Don'ts when Applying for Community-Based Grants
	JoLee Sasakamoose, Tom MacIntosh, Leslie Ann Keown	Nov. 9, 2020	Community-based Program Evaluation
	Tracey Mann, Bob Friedrich, Dave Slater, Karen Henders	Dec. 7, 2020	Grant Providers: How Do We Assess Success and Failure?
<i>Research Impact Canada and CIPSRT Partnership</i>	Lynn Gidluck, Candace Giblett, Lynne Fernandez and Jody Linklater	Feb. 10, 2021	What is Community-based Research?
	Emilie Kossick, Joy MacDermid, Charles Levkoe and Nadine Changfoot	Feb. 17, 2021	What is Knowledge Mobilization?
	Shannon Dea, Michael Johnny, Nick Carleton, Casey Ward and Yvonne Hanson	Feb. 24, 2021	Building Successful Partnerships
<i>Toolkit Workshop Series: Taking the fear out of nonprofit finance and risk management</i>	Dave Roszell	Mar. to May, 2021	These sessions were designed for people who do not have formal training or deep experience in accounting or financial management.
Webinar 1		Mar. 30, 2021	Understanding the Fundamentals of Financial Statements and Accounting
Webinar 2		April 13, 2021	Budgets and Budget Development
Webinar 3		Apr. 27, 2021	Risk and Risk Management



Impact through Collaboration: How Evidence-Based Research and Evaluation Can Better Support the Non-profit Sector

The CERC was pleased to be asked to sit on the organizing committee for an initiative offered in partnership with the City of Regina. We were part of a collaborative team from the U of R and the City of Regina that included: Emily Grafton, Lynn Gidluck and Michelle Stewart from the University and Kelly Husack and Dave Slater from the City of Regina.

The series explored topics in community-based research and community-campus collaboration, and was marketed to both people working in the CBO sector and researchers at the University. The first session: “Non-profit Agencies and the University Researcher: Discussing Mutual Benefits” was a moderated panel discussion that provided insight into the collaborative process from project planning and funding through to evaluation. The audience learned about ways community-university collaborations can strengthen funding applications, as well as the benefit of community-based research in addressing complex social issues in our community.

For the second session, participants participated in a highly engaging workshop on applying for community-based grants. Kinesiology and Health Studies professor Elizabeth Cooper shared insights she has gained as a community-based researcher in writing successful funding proposals. Cooper talked about the buzzwords that funders use, the steps needed to develop a

feasible plan to evaluate work done during the course of a project, and supports available to help ensure that evaluation happens in a good way. Attendees had the opportunity to work in small groups on a highly practical assignment and left the session with a number of resources that will make their next attempts at writing a grant application easier.

The third session: “Community-based Program Evaluation” brought together non-profit administrators and community-based researchers to discuss the role of evaluation in project design and delivery. The audience learned about different approaches to evaluation including collaboration on designing evaluation tools. The goal of the session was to strengthen the knowledge of participants on how to design evaluation into their funding application in such a way that evaluation can be a powerful tool to better understand how a project is operating, areas for improvement and overall impact.

The final session brought together a panel of representatives from granting bodies, who discussed the criteria used to assess funding applicants. What makes a grant a success? What makes it a failure?

All sessions of the Impact through Collaboration series are [available for viewing](#) on the CERC webpage.

RESEARCH IMPACT CANADA | RÉSEAU IMPACT RECHERCHE CANADA

CERC would like to thank the Vice President of Research and the Office of Research Services for their leadership in recognizing the benefits to the University of Regina in becoming a member of [Research Impact Canada](#) (RIC). RIC's mandate is to help universities maximize their research impact through effective use and development of knowledge mobilization tools and practices.

“We are pleased to join Sally Gray from the Research Office and Emilie Kossick from CIPSRT in representing our university on various committees of RIC,” said Gidluck. “I have learned so much from involvement with RIC. There is great value of being able to meet with and learn from people doing similar work in universities across the country.”

“Thanks to our membership in this organization we were also able to apply for funding for a project entitled: “Maximizing the Impact of Community-Based Research Projects: Tools, Strategies and Best Practices for Communicating Research Findings.” Three GoToWebinar training sessions were held during the Winter 2021 semester. The webinar recordings and resources that were curated and developed

for these sessions are available on both the CERC and CIPSRT websites.

The first session, called “What is Community Based Research?”, was geared towards not-for-profit and public sector groups hoping to partner with researchers at universities, and organizations with previous partnerships that want to have more impactful outcomes from future collaborations. The second session brought together a panel of academics who shared their strategies for effective KM and spoke about to how to make non-traditional outputs and efforts “count” when it comes time for tenure and promotion. The third session brought together a number of community-based research teams to share their own best practices in knowledge mobilization that led to policy or program changes.

“We were pleased to see that the University of Regina renewed its membership in Research Impact Canada. If anyone is interested in learning more about RIC and how you can benefit from being involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to me,” said Gidluck.





Canadian Philanthropy Partnership Network

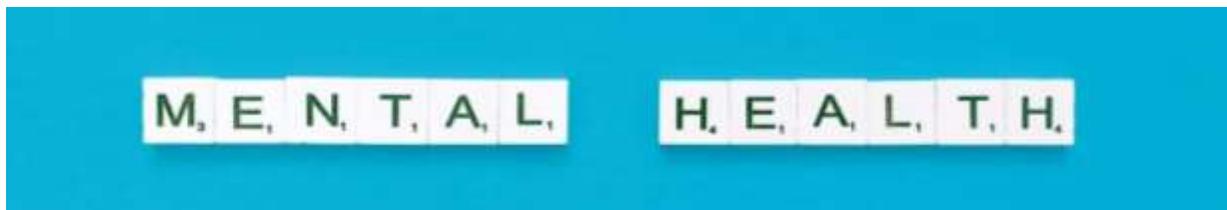
The Canadian Philanthropy Partnership Network (PhiLab) is a national research network working to advance the interests of the philanthropic sector. The project began as a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Development project. After a first funding period from 2013-2017, funding was continued through a six-year Partnership Grant (2018-2024). Together with Iryna Khovrenkov of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School, CERC Community Director Lynn Gidluck co-leads PhiLab's western hub.

PhiLab funding supported a number of professional development and networking opportunities that benefitted members of the CERC network as well as nonprofit organizations and community-based researchers from across the country.

Early in the pandemic many people working in community-based organizations were struggling to figure out ways to host effective annual general meetings online," said Gidluck. "They were also worried because fundraising revenue was dropping significantly because special events could not be held in person. Funding from PhiLab allowed us to host online professional development workshops where people in the sector shared tools, tips and techniques on these topics."

Through the partnership with JSGS and PhiLab, CERC also co-hosted a conference called "The Place of Philanthropy in Community Mental Health" in June of 2021. The conference brought together researchers, service providers, members of the grantmaking sector and policy makers to talk about ways to collaborate with each other through community-driven mental health research.

SSHRC funding from PhiLab is also supporting a project Gidluck is working on with the United Way of Regina to document the role 211 service providers have played during the pandemic.



Our Team 2020-2021

Lynn Gidluck	Community Director (ex officio) Staff
Amber Fletcher	Academic Director/Board Chair Faculty member, Department of Sociology and Social Studies
Raymond Blake	Interim Associate Dean of Arts (Research and Graduate Studies) (ex officio)
Katherine Arbuthnott	Faculty member, Department of Psychology, Campion College
Shayla Sayer-Brabant	Undergraduate student
Lisa Brownstone	Community representative, Canada FASD Research Network
Chasity Delorme	Community representative
Emily Eaton	Faculty member, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies
Cindy Hanson	Faculty member, Department of Sociology & Social Studies
Alaina Harrison	Community representative, Inclusion Saskatchewan
Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis	Community representative, All Nations Hope Network

The Community Engagement and Research Centre is served by one full-time staff person (the Community Director) and is guided by a Community Advisory Board that reports through the Associate Dean (RG) to the Dean of Arts. The CERC Academic Director chairs the board which consists of three members from the community, three professors or instructors from the Faculty of Arts, and one University of Regina student. The Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate Studies) serves as ex-officio member of the board, as does the CERC Community Director.

We would like to sincerely thank outgoing members of the board: Katherine Arbuthnott, Raymond Blake, Lisa Brownstone, Emily Eaton, Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, and Shayla Sayer-Brabant.

For more information about our programs and services, contact Lynn Gidluck at lynn.gidluck@uregina.ca.

